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ico Sun-Times

Free

FREE & STILL INDEPENDENT - SINCE 1997

RICO, COLORADO

SEPTEMBER 3 - SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

reading proved for get ndments

cial meeting was held
uesday evening to ask
board members to ap-
1st reading of amend-
udget by \$23,750.00.
et amendment will re-
tional costs for study-
nate sewer treatment
s.

utlook for the 2004
bleak. Assessed valu-
sidential property was
1997 than it is today.
orted by Town Man-
on Harrison that it has
\$200,000.00 from
ne despite population

on stated, "We have
ple to serve with a
ix base."

ounding the lower
ax revenue is the clos-
Rico Theatre and Cafe
a decline in sales tax
The Cafe is the second
rce of revenue for the

son will be recom-
to the town board to
osts by continuing to
et lights off, salary
town employees, cut
reduce staff. In addi-
be recommending that
ployee's health insur-
actible be raised.

own Board will be
ng multiple budget
sions before adopting
udget. The first meet-
eduled for Sept. 10th,
town hall.



Ted Linnert, Community Involvement Coordinator, EPA; Sheldon Muller, Enforcement Attorney, EPA; David Williams, NPL (Superfund) Coordinator, EPA; Mark Walker, Project Manager, VCP, CDPHE; and Carol Russell, Mining Technical Coordinator, EPA, held a community meeting.

EPA holds community meeting

Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency conducted an open house last Wednesday evening at the request of the Town which was attended by some 30-35 concerned residents.

Both EPA and State officials provided a presentation of environmental issues, regulatory authority and procedures, and options for environmental remediation in the Rico area. There was no shortage of questions from the Rico audience.

Carol Russell, Mining Technical Coordinator for the EPA, opened the meeting with a brief history and explanation of the mining industry in Rico. Russell explained that most mining districts have high levels of metals in the soil, such as lead, zinc, and cadmium, which can affect

humans if transported by air or water. The high level of metals in soils in mining districts occur both naturally and as a result of past mining activities. Russell emphasized that young developing children are more at risk from heavy metal contamination, especially lead, and urged parents to at least clean their children's hands after playing outside.

Mark Walker, Project Manager for the Voluntary Cleanup Program with the Colorado De-

partment of Health and Environment, then discussed past voluntary cleanup activities performed by ARCO in the Rico area. ARCO completed a voluntary cleanup project of 6 different tailings pile areas in 1996 which involved capping the tailings with a foot and a half of gravel and improving the drainage to reduce water contamination.

Walker also discussed Brownfields projects in the
continued on page 4

Installation of playground equipment halted

The installation of the new playground equipment was delayed from the original date and rescheduled for Saturday and Sunday, September 6th & 7th,

June 12, 2003 to Dolores County School District for approval has not been finalized.

It was reported by Town Manager Ashton Harrison that

EPA will return to test individual home sites

continued from page 1

Rico area. The Town previously applied for an initial Brownfields Assessment grant project to study the potential for redeveloping the St. Louis Tunnel area as a light industrial site and redeveloping the maintenance garage area as a river front hotel. Walker stated that the test results for both potential Brownfields sites looked very promising and thought that both areas could be redeveloped with simple environmental remediation. According to Walker the current Bush administration has placed much more

funding emphasis on Brownfields projects than other areas of the EPA.

Sheldon Muller, the Enforcement Attorney for the EPA, discussed the pending enforcement action over the abandoned treatment facility for the St. Louis Tunnel discharge and the proposed settlement with the estates of Virginia Sell and Wayne Webster. The treatment facilities were abandoned in 1996 by Rico Development Corporation (the holder of the state discharger permit and predecessor to Rico Properties/Rico Renaissance). EPA filed

an enforcement action in Federal District court in July of 1999 against Rico Development Corporation and their officers, Virginia Sell and Wayne Webster. During the investigation both Sell and Webster passed away, leaving the EPA to potentially consider enforcement against other "potentially responsible parties", including Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO), National Lead Industries, and current land owners Rico Renaissance and Rico Properties.

Other types of enforcement the EPA can pursue would be

under the Clean Water Act, CERCLA, and Resource Conservation Hazardous. When orders are issued under CERCLA, it's issued to individual potentially responsible parties. Parties that don't comply with orders are subject to penalties up to three times the amount that EPA spends on clean up.

David Williams, the Superfund Coordinator with the EPA, explained the National Priority List (NPL) procedures for the Rico area to be designated a Superfund site. Williams stated that NPL listing and Superfund designation can

make federal funding available to cleanup sites. Superfund funding could allow cleanup to move forward more quickly. The EPA would then seek to recover cleanup expenditures from potentially responsible parties. While Superfund designation can bring in potential funding, the Superfund has not received any new appropriations from Congress since 1994, according to Williams. Williams said that there were currently 114 sites in Colorado on the NPL. 15 of those sites were put on the NPL just in the last year.

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Karl Denson's Tiny Universe to take the stage at B&B Festival

Having earned international popularity as a top artist on the touring circuit, Karl Denson is still intent on expanding the perception of his music. The newest album from Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, *The Bridge* deepens the group's dynamic sound with the help of hip-hop activist Michael Franti of Spearhead, street poet Saul Williams, members of Blackalicious, and legendary horn players Fred Wesley and Roy Hargrove.

With Denson's vocals figuring prominently in the mix, *The Bridge* represents both a decisive new musical step and a return to



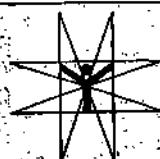
became the top dance track in Europe. "I remember touring with Lenny overseas and hearing that tune in every club we went

Greyboy Allstars and five equally bold solo albums.

Denson further cemented this reputation when he formed Karl Denson's Tiny Universe in 1998 and released *Dance Lesson #2* last year. A multigenre mix of music, the album earned immense critical praise.

"This project is just who I am. It's a mix between my own ideas and the music of people like Fela Kuti," Denson explains. "With Fela you gotta dig him for a while - like James Brown - to get really deep into the music and what he was trying to say with it."

KDTU will be performing at the



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